

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry smear piece just days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. There is no plan to provide "balance" to this obvious partisan attack nor is there any public benefit to broadcasting such propaganda.

Since Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest the FCC must step in to either prevent the Sinclair from forcing local stations to broadcast this piece or simply prohibit this broadcast altogether.

The FCC should immediately take steps to prevent further consolidation of media ownership and must take steps to dismantle the current oligarchy that has taken over the public airways. Free press is an essential foundation of democracy. The FCC has a role in assuring that the United States is not held hostage to a few wealthy, conservative individuals that monopolize media ownership.